

Amendment To The Drawings

Please amend the drawings as follows:

Please enter the attached Replacement Sheet for sheet 3/4 showing an amended FIG. 2B.

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-14 were pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and added claims 15-22. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination and fee concurrently herewith. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-22 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,115 B1 to Adler, et al. ("Adler '115") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,214,702 to Fischer ("Fischer '702").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Initially, Applicant respectfully submits that the references are not properly combined since Adler does not appreciate the need to digitally sign the document for authentication purposes and thus one of skill in the art would not look to Fischer to modify Adler.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is moot.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not fairly teach or suggest:

processing said input data, at said first communication device, to compute an encrypted checksum of the entire input data;

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully reiterates that the cited passages of Adler describe compressing and encrypting a facsimile transmission at intermediate nodes of transmission, but do not teach computing an encrypted checksum of the facsimile document that would be useful for authenticating the integrity of the transmission from the source to the destination.

Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as presently claimed in claims 5 and 7 is patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5 and 7 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,115 B1 to Adler, et al. (“Adler ‘115”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,214,702 to Fischer (“Fischer ‘702”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,493 to Tanaka, et al. (“Tanaka ‘493”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Initially, Applicant respectfully submits that the references are not properly combined since Adler does not appreciate the need to digitally sign the document for authentication purposes and thus one of skill in the art would not look to Fischer to modify Adler.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is moot.

Furthermore, with respect to claims 10 and 11, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not fairly teach or suggest:

in the event of a mismatch includes printing a clear mark.

Tanaka describes reading check marked settings from an operator control sheet for running a copier and in the event that checked setting marks indicate incompatible mutually exclusive operations, the system processes an error. The system does not teach or fairly describe printing a clear mark to indicate an original document not matching a received document. Furthermore, one of skill in the art would not look to Tanaka to modify the teachings of Fischer or Adler.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,115 B1 to Adler, et al. (“Adler ‘115”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,214,702 to Fischer (“Fischer

‘702”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,345 to Bloomfield (“Bloomfield ‘345”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Initially, Applicant respectfully submits that the references are not properly combined since Adler does not appreciate the need to digitally sign the document for authentication purposes and thus one of skill in the art would not look to Fischer to modify Adler.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is moot.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,115 B1 to Adler, et al. (“Adler ‘115”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,214,702 to Fischer (“Fischer ‘702”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,126 to Otsuka (“Otsuka ‘126”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Initially, Applicant respectfully submits that the references are not properly combined since Adler does not appreciate the need to digitally sign the document for authentication purposes and thus one of skill in the art would not look to Fischer to modify Adler.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection is moot.

2. Objections to the Drawings

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as allegedly not showing each feature of the claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the methods claimed are supported at least by FIGs. 3a and 3b.

Furthermore, Applicant has amended the specification as supported by FIGs. 3a and 3b. Additionally, Applicant proposes the attached amendment to FIG. 2B to clearly show the mark X as supported by at least paragraphs 31, 32, 37, 39 and 40.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings comply and respectfully request entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the objection.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 15-22 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons described above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-14 are in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

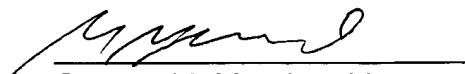
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

5. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-240.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-240.

Respectfully submitted,



George M. Macdonald
Reg. No. 39,284
Attorney for Applicant
Telephone (203) 924-3180

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive, P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000